

THE DAILY ALASKAN

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SKAGWAY, ALASKA, WEDNESDAY MORNING, AUGUST 1, 1900

PRICE 10 CENTS

Canadian Bank & Commerce

Head Office Toronto Ontario
CAPITAL, \$6,000,000. Rest, \$1,250,000
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Gold Dust Purchased. Exchange on all points Bought and Sold.
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Gold Dust Purchased. Exchange Sold on All Parts of the World

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Dealers in Sash, Doors and building Hardware
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SUGGESTS REMEDIES

General Spaulding Is Against the Suspension of the Bonding Privilege, But Offers Encouragement.

WOULD APPEAL TO CANADA FOR FAIR TREATMENT

If the State Department Fails To Secure Justice the Port Could Be Closed Entirely, Which Would Result in Shutting Out Foreign Ships and Foreign Goods--Mr. Sylvester Made Strong Presentation of Skagway's Case and Made a Marked Impression--Illustrated Remarks With Charts and Gave Facts and Figures--Informal Reception Follows.

Last night's meeting with General O. L. Spaulding, first assistant secretary of the treasury was not without encouragement, though it disposed entirely of all hope in securing a suspension of the bonding privilege without congressional action. General Spaulding made two suggestions in which he probable relief from the existing discriminations against American trade and against which Skagway merchants now have to contend. His first remedy was an appeal to Canada from our citizens through the state department for common justice and fair treatment, which he was satisfied we were not getting. The second, a drastic one which he hesitated about recommending, was to abolish the sub port at this point, which would result in only American ships to land here and only with American goods.

"Make your statement strong and clear as it has been made to me here tonight," he said, "and I will see that it reaches the state department with my approval."

"I believe in looking out for American shipping and American commerce first," was another pertinent remark.

The special meeting of the chamber of commerce was called for seven o'clock to present the questions of the customs regulations that has long agitated Skagway business men to General Spaulding. The meeting took place in the reception room of the Arctic Brotherhood hall and was well attended.

The case for Skagway was presented by E. O. Sylvester, chairman of the chamber of commerce committee on Trade and Commerce, and never was it more forcefully or clearly presented.

Mr. Sylvester prepared large charts, upon which the entire story was illustrated and told in brief. These were displayed in front of Gen. Spaulding, as the questions were dwelt upon by the speaker.

Mr. Sylvester gave a history of the incentive and growth of Skagway and the trade conditions which impelled our people to invest their money in the city, showing that at that time the Americans had all of the Yukon trade and could not have failed to retain it if the customs regulations had remained as at that time.

But by granting the extremely liberal bonding privileges, this condition has been revised to such an extent that Canada now controls 80 per cent of the trade. The bonded goods going over White Pass in 1898 were valued at \$280,121; in 1899, \$2,460,416; the first six months of 1900, \$2,460,416; the first six months of 1900, with only one of the good months in, \$1,380,761. If the same increase is shown over last year during the last half of 1900 as during the first half, the Canadian shipments will increase to \$5,000,000 this year as the three best months, July, August and September are to be added to the figures given.

Mr. Sylvester dwelt at length upon the Canadian regulations, comparing their efforts to hamper American trade at each step with American efforts to make trade easy for Canadians. He showed that the offer to give Americans the bonding privilege through Canada was no profit to our people; that Canadians charge duty on personal effects that our country lets in free; that American goods were detained at Bennett in the interest of bonded goods; that

duties were collected at Skagway prices with freight profits added; that our invoices were refused and partisan Canadian officials made appraisements for the collection of duties in the interest of Canadian merchants, and that American liquors were not permitted to go through Canadian territory to the Yukon under any consideration.

Mr. Sylvester also compared Canadian and American mining regulations to show that in all things Americans were dividing their country and business, while Canadians were keeping everything.

General Spaulding said in part: "I have been very greatly interested in the clear, lucid and able presentation of your grievance for complaint."

"I will say, too, right here, that so far as the treasury department is concerned its disposition is to serve American interests in every way possible, but there are some things we cannot do. We are controlled by the laws of congress."

"A considerable portion of your complaint is in connection with the Canadian regulations. That we can't remedy. But if you will reduce to writing your whole case, make your statement strong and clear as you have made it to me tonight, and I will see that it reaches the state department."

"I think your case can be presented at Ottawa in such a way as to secure relief for your people."

"Send it to us at Washington. I think your railroad people will help you."

"As for American shipping interests, no man is more keen to advance it than I am. That I think was demonstrated in my refusal to make Nome a point of entry."

"As to the bonding question, I have this to say. It is here in all respects as in other portions of the country. I do not see how we can change it. We can hardly make an exception of this port."

"Business will adjust itself to conditions. Sometimes it is not very satisfactory, but we can't help that."

"I can give you no assurance that we can change the bonding privilege."

"You must remember that there is a great difference in the American and Canadian method of administering government. We are bound by statute, while they have their order in council and discretionary powers. If at times it seems to the people that our government is not as mindful and responsive to the interests of the people as the Canadian, it must not be charged to indifference."

"Can you not close this port," asked Mr. Sylvester.

"Do you want it closed?" came the reply. "I don't think you do. It could be done, however, as Dyce was closed, by taking the officers away."

Asked as to the effect of such action, General Spaulding said, "It would shut out all vessels except American in domestic trade. I am willing to help you to secure an adjustment of your trade matters but would dislike to apply such a drastic remedy as this. However, I will say that if your people ask it, the matter will receive attention. I would not want to do it on my own responsibility, but would confer with the secretary. He would probably take it over to a cabinet meeting, and

while I can't say what would result, I will say we are keenly interested in your country, and believe in looking out for Americans first."

General Spaulding is a large handsome man, probably sixty years of age, with pleasing address. He spoke freely and frankly upon all matters brought up.

After the business of the meeting there was an informal reception and all were introduced to General Spaulding, as well as to Capt. Day and Major Langitt of the Columbine.

General Spaulding is getting in a hurry to complete his trip. He left on the Grant last evening for Sitka, from which point he will return direct to the Sound, and from there proceed to Washington. He desired to be at the capital by August 15.

IN A BIG WORK
Corps Here Selecting Light-house Sites.
COME ON THE COLUMBINE
Scientific Marine Men of the Government Visit Skagway on a Tour of Inspection of Buoys, and Placing Aids For Navigation.

The United States lighthouse and construction steamer Columbine, arrived in port yesterday morning with a corps of officers of the lighthouse department on important missions. They are cruising in the waters of Alaska placing and inspecting buoys, and examining sites for proposed lighthouses. The steamer will probably leave today and proceed south, working along so as to reach Seattle in about two weeks.

The officers aboard are all members of this, the Thirtieth Lighthouse District. They are: Capt. W. P. Day, U. S. N., inspector; Major W. C. Langitt, construction engineer; Capt. Chas. Richardson, in command of the vessel; Capt. E. H. Francis, pilot of the Columbine and representative of the coast and geodetic survey; H. C. Graves, of the coast and geodetic survey, now engaged in gathering data for coast charts.

The Columbine is the regular steamer assigned to Major Langitt, as constructing engineer of the district, and Inspector Day is traveling in her merely for this tour.

The Columbine left Seattle June 23, and proceeded direct to the Aleutians, where she inspected Unimak, Adak and Unalga passes, leading to Bering Sea, with the intention of establishing lighthouses there. A buoy and a beacon were established at Dutch Harbor. The vessel then worked this way, examining the following places for lighthouses: Edgcomb, Fairway and Sentinel Island. A bell buoy was placed 100 feet off Sherman Rock, near Seward City, Lynn Canal. Eldred Rock and Battery Point, Lynn Canal, were also examined for lighthouse sites. A first class nun buoy was placed at Katschina river, fifteen miles below Skagway, in twelve fathoms of water, in channel off edge of the spit.

From here the vessel will call at points in the line of travel to the Sound, inspecting buoys and examining sites for lighthouses. The proposed sights south of here include Cape Fanshaw, Point Gardner, Cape Omnev, Cape Decision, Abraham Island, Guard Island, Mary Island and Cape Fox.

The lighthouses for the Seattle-Skagway course are to be of the second class. The deep sea light house will not be necessary because of the quiet nature of waters and the protected inland course.

The reports as to the various lights will be made to the department before being given to the public.

WILL FIGHT THE TAX

Senator Mason Promises To Take Up Alaska's Struggle for Freedom From Her Present Bondage.

HE DECLARES THE EXACTIONS ARE AN OUTRAGE

Old Warhorse from Illinois Visits Skagway, and After Investigation, Pro-nounces the Levy Made on the People of This Country Unconstitutional--He Wants Citizens of the District To Have all the Money and to Say How and Where It Shall Be Distributed--Secretary Hay Denounced for Allowing Britishers to Get Away With Territory.

Hon. William E. Mason, United Senator from Illinois, arrived in Skagway yesterday from Juneau, where he had been since Saturday. The senator visited the summit of White Pass yesterday on the special train in company with General Spaulding. He will leave here today for the Porcupine country, to look over the site of the modus vivendi boundary. Senator Mason has been paying considerable attention to the matter of taxation and the Alaska-Canadian boundary line since his arrival in the north. The senator last evening said:

"After having studied the matter of the tax imposed on Alaska by the government, I am of the decided opinion it is an outrageous exaction, and a great injustice which brought on the war of the American revolution. In other words it is taxation without representation."

"I voted for the late Alaskan bill because I was not familiar with the contents. It was a big matter and voluminous and we all had other matters of our own largely occupying our attention."

"However, my eyes have been opened, and now I stand ready to fight for the cause of the unjustly taxed American citizens of Alaska. I shall fight the cause in congress."

"I shall combat the iniquitous tax by an endeavor to have the money raised expended in Alaska. I believe the people of Alaska should have the benefit."

"Not only that but I will endeavor to have the people of Alaska given the right of stating how they shall expend the money that is raised here by taxation by the government."

"I want to be well acquainted with the boundary question. I visited the present boundary at the summit of White Pass today, and will leave tomorrow for the Porcupine country, back of Haines, where I shall remain several days."

"I am not in favor of yielding an inch of what is rightfully American territory to the British. I want every foot of land to marine leagues from the shore of the mainland in the disputed territory for the United States, and I favor fighting if we do not get it."

"The British have bluffed us. They have followed the policy of seizing a whole loaf when they expect to get only a slice in the outcome. They are the shrewdest traders and the sharpest international dealers in the world. Their methods in this case are nothing new. They asked for more than they expected to get."

"I am a republican and expect to go on the stump in the east in a month for McKinley and Roosevelt, and I am in sympathy with the cabinet members with one exception--and that is Secretary of State Hay. He is too much of a Britisher. Paunceforte gives him a dinner and he is won. It is Hay who is responsible for the Americans losing the grip on the big end of American territory in this disputed area. Hay is unfit for anything. I object to maintaining a British official (meaning Mr. Hay) at the expense of our government."

"Up to 1888, when the contention arose over the boundary the British printed all

their maps showing the boundary to be at the summit of the mountains. Now they would have it run to tidewater. The old Russian boundary ran where we contend it should remain."

Senator Mason is a short, rotund, fleshy man, dressed like an old time skipper out on a yachting trip. He wears a yachting cap of blue, a black shirt and flowing tie, and speaks with the same nonchalance his attire indicates. He speaks with enthusiasm and without equivocation.

Jolly, happy and apparently enjoying life, "Billy" Mason, as his old admirers call him, maintained in Skagway all his reputation for good fellowship. In one of his happy moments yesterday he said: "I day they would vote for McKinley."

The contention for the closing of the port of Skagway, the senator said, was not well understood by himself. However, from what was told him, he thought the matter is all right as it is, stating that Canada extends bonding privileges to the United States on the northern states boundaries, and that some such favor is to be expected to be given to that country.

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THE DAILY ALASKAN will be found on sale at the Hotel Northern news stand in Seattle.
Russet shoes for men in all the up-to-date toes at Cheney's Haberdashery. 1f
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